

# The National Redress Scheme

## What is it?

The National Redress Scheme (NRS) acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions, holds institutions accountable for this abuse, and helps people who have experienced this abuse gain access to justice and redress.

The scheme can provide:

- a payment of up to \$150,000 depending on your experiences
- counselling
- a direct personal response from the institution (for example, an apology).

## Can I apply?

You can apply to the NRS if:

- You experienced sexual abuse in an institution as a child before 1 July 2018. Examples of an institution include a school, orphanage or church.
- The institution has joined the NRS.
- You have not already received a court-ordered payment from the institution for the abuse.
- You are over 18 or will turn 18 before 30 June 2028.
- You are an Australian citizen or a permanent resident.

## What do I need to know?

- A payment under the NRS is to acknowledge the abuse you experienced.
- You might receive more money if you make a civil claim against the institution instead of a claim under the NRS. Speak to a civil lawyer to make sure you are choosing the best option.
- If you accept an offer under the NRS you will not be able to bring any more claims against the institution.
- You can only make one application to the scheme, even if you were abused in more than one institution.
- If you have already received a payment for the abuse, the indexed amount (what it would be worth if you received it today) will be deducted from your redress payment.

## Which institutions have joined?

To check whether an institution has joined the NRS, call 1800 737 377 or check [www.nationalredress.gov.au](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au). An institution cannot be forced to join. If they choose not to join you cannot receive any payment via the NRS for abuse you experienced while under their care.

## How knowmore can help

knowmore is a **free legal service** for anyone who has experienced institutional child sexual abuse. We can give you advice about the NRS and help you make an application. We can also give you advice about other compensation options that might be available. We will never charge you for our help.

## How do I apply?

You can complete the NRS application form at [www.nationalredress.gov.au](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au), or if you would like a paper application form, call the NRS on 1800 737 377. If you need help completing your application, contact knowmore.

## How long do I have to apply?

Applications can be made up until 30 June 2027.

## How long will it take?

If we help you with your application, we estimate it will take 6 to 12 months for us to make all necessary enquiries and complete the application. Once your application is lodged with the NRS, it takes approximately 12 months for a decision to be made. Some applications will be processed more quickly.

### REMEMBER:

- If you accept an offer under the NRS you can't receive any further money from the institution for the abuse you experienced.
- You can only make one application.
- You can apply up until 30 June 2027.

#### Brisbane

Level 20, 144 Edward Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
t 07 3218 4500

#### Melbourne

Level 15, 607 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
t 03 8663 7400

#### Sydney

Level 7, 26 College Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
t 02 8267 7400

#### Perth

Level 5, 5 Mill Street  
Perth WA 6000  
t 08 6117 7244